

Continued Dry

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 3, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Relatively dry weather was reported across much of the Sate. However, daytime temperatures moderated, and farmers reported scattered overnight frost in several areas. Severity ranged from light to the season’s first killing frost. Temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the southwest Lower Peninsula to 1 degree above normal in the Upper Peninsula. The continued dry conditions, while favorable for dry down and harvesting progress, had growers concerned about soil moisture levels for wheat germination. The dry soils also made fall tillage difficult. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.25 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula to 1.06 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. A grower in the southeast noted that it was a good week for harvesting, “Anything that was planted early is pretty well harvested. Later planted crops are getting close.” A farmer in the Thumb agreed, but was hoping for a few more nice days before the first freeze, “We still need some good weather in order for the late corn to mature.”

Field Crops

Some rain fell across the State last week but not enough to improve soil moisture in most areas. The dry weather helped dry down **corn** and **soybeans**, but the corn crop could still use more heat to mature. Some late planted corn may have to go for silage or high moisture corn. Soybean harvest continued, with progress now normal for the date. Some growers reported very dry beans, which was leading to cracking. With the little rain that was received, regrowth of **hay** was slowed. **Dry bean** harvest was in full swing. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued, but the crop is in need of more rain. Some growers delayed harvest because of the dry conditions. **Wheat** planting continued, but dry conditions made tillage and sowing difficult.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/03/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	36	46	18	0
Subsoil	31	40	29	0

Crop condition for week ending 10/03/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	8	13	38	32	9
Corn	5	11	36	36	12
Pasture	11	26	39	21	3
Soybeans	4	9	34	42	11

Fruit

Apple harvesting continued. The crop quality has been good to very good. Several growers have had diminished crop size and quality because of hail. Harvest was about half way completed. Concord **grape** harvest was 95 percent complete. There will be some abandonment.

Vegetables

Vegetable growers across the State continued to pick a variety of vegetable crops. Warm, dry weather helped crops mature and ensured timely harvesting. Some farmers reported scattered frost. Damage was limited as most susceptible crops were mature. **Potato** digging continued. Growers were still harvesting fresh market and processing **tomatoes** in several districts. **Pumpkin** picking progressed. One reporter noted that a truck shortage was delaying shipments to out of State markets. **Squash** harvest for processing was just getting underway in the west central. **Zucchini** harvest was almost wrapped up. **Onion** harvest continued.

Crop progress for week ending 10/03/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	82	81	89	91
All hay, fourth cutting	31	28	18	38
Apples, harvested	48	30	NA	NA
Corn, dough	97	93	100	100
Corn, dent	89	73	94	96
Corn, mature	45	28	56	68
Corn, harvested	5	1	4	8
Corn silage, harvested	73	53	82	83
Dry beans, harvested	86	56	83	66
Potatoes, harvested	51	37	NA	NA
Soybeans, turning leaves	89	71	99	97
Soybeans, dropping leaves	61	39	88	83
Soybeans, harvested	16	5	9	16
Winter wheat, planted	41	28	37	34
Winter wheat, emerged	9	4	8	8

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/03/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	72	30		1,844	2,045		1.04	1.08	1.98	20.12		
Marquette	72	30		1,761	1,974		0.92	0.92	2.30	19.80		
Stephenson	81	28		2,112	2,262		1.35	1.38	2.32	19.10		
Western UP	81	27	1	1,866	2,044	1,927	1.06	1.09	2.01	18.08	20.27	2.57
Cornell	74	33		1,877	2,173		0.90	0.90	1.79	19.55		
Sault St Marie	74	34		1,621	1,923		0.66	0.66	1.98	18.01		
Eastern UP	74	28	1	1,652	1,916	1,704	0.90	0.90	2.01	17.29	19.18	2.57
Beulah	76	36		2,189	2,251		0.65	0.65	1.12	21.11		
Lake City	77	28		2,125	2,118		0.45	0.45	1.23	17.85		
Old Mission	78	36		2,119	2,232		0.61	0.62	0.79	19.20		
Pellston	76	26		2,006	2,117		1.06	1.07	2.18	16.32		
Northwest	78	26	0	2,060	2,143	2,207	0.65	0.66	1.24	17.92	18.42	2.75
Alpena	79	30		2,099	2,106		0.27	0.27	0.57	15.34		
Houghton Lake	76	32		2,236	2,246		0.24	0.26	0.99	16.47		
Rogers City	78	30		2,064	2,212		0.32	0.33	0.92	18.04		
Northeast	79	26	-1	2,129	2,209	2,135	0.30	0.30	0.89	16.52	18.23	2.40
Fremont	76	30		2,456	2,543		0.37	0.37	0.70	17.85		
Hart	74	30		2,302	2,381		0.82	0.82	1.39	20.16		
Muskegon	71	33		2,483	2,640		0.40	0.40	0.53	20.98		
West Central	76	30	-2	2,372	2,463	2,415	0.56	0.56	0.91	21.01	18.41	2.94
Alma	76	33		2,582	2,555		0.34	0.34	0.68	21.47		
Big Rapids	76	31		2,407	2,333		0.48	0.48	0.93	20.67		
Central	76	31	-1	2,520	2,440	2,492	0.37	0.37	0.70	20.50	19.20	2.59
Bad Axe	77	35		2,395	2,270		0.24	0.24	0.72	18.29		
Pigeon	76	34		2,373	2,253		0.27	0.28	0.83	19.35		
Saginaw	77	33		2,604	2,491		0.23	0.23	0.89	17.41		
Standish	78	29		2,343	2,222		0.24	0.24	0.99	18.32		
East Central	78	29	-1	2,392	2,325	2,503	0.25	0.26	0.78	18.60	17.08	2.41
Fennville	75	34		2,533	2,516		0.08	0.08	0.40	14.25		
Grand Rapids	75	34		2,825	2,609		0.48	0.48	0.93	22.29		
Holland	73	34		2,628	2,589		0.62	0.62	0.77	16.23		
South Bend, IN	75	36		2,976	2,788		0.39	0.39	0.85	23.61		
Watervliet	75	34		2,716	2,552		0.70	0.70	1.91	24.22		
Southwest	78	31	-4	2,716	2,613	2,731	0.53	0.53	1.12	21.84	19.73	2.99
Belding	76	33		2,569	2,477		0.43	0.44	1.00	22.61		
Coldwater	74	34		2,651	2,432		1.15	1.15	1.52	22.94		
Lansing	80	36		2,691	2,567		0.18	0.18	1.12	22.07		
South Central	80	33	-3	2,689	2,576	2,680	0.41	0.41	1.00	22.33	19.23	2.41
Detroit	75	36		3,011	2,851		0.22	0.22	0.87	20.09		
Flint	75	32		2,736	2,684		0.22	0.22	0.92	18.74		
Romeo	76	34		2,722	2,507		0.52	0.52	1.98	23.90		
Tipton	76	31		2,700	2,546		0.81	0.81	1.24	18.87		
Toledo, OH	74	33		3,040	2,854		0.46	0.46	1.21	17.83		
Southeast	77	31	-2	2,759	2,686	2,678	0.47	0.47	1.16	20.58	18.28	2.33

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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